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Phase I of 37th Street Water Treatment Plant project under budget to the end

Thirty-four months after it began, the first phase of the 37th Street Water Treatment Plant upgrade concluded **ahead of schedule and under budget**. In October 2000, the City of Norfolk broke ground for the project to upgrade the chemical handling and electrical power facilities at 37th Street. Improvements made to the water treatment plant over the last three years have modernized the facility, ensuring its continued reliability and improving its efficiency.

Originally slated for completion in the fall of 2003, the water treatment plant project is now essentially finished, with only small landscaping jobs and final clean-up remaining. According to project officials, the construction was not only completed earlier than scheduled, but also came in at about \$800,000.00 less than the original budget of \$21 million.

"When all three parties — the contractor, the design-engineers and the city — walk away happy, you know it was a good project," said Water Production Manager Rick Saul. "The contractor was able to finish early, the engineers got the finished product that met their specifications, and the city saved money while improving the water treatment facility."

The 37th Street Water Treatment Plant is the last major operational facility to be upgraded in the Department of Utilities. The chemical handling facilities and electrical power capabilities dated to the 1950s, and the old technology was difficult and expensive to service and repair. The modernization will enable the plant to continue to keep up with the ever-increasing Safe Drinking Water Act standards set by the Federal government, and will save the city money in maintenance and operation.

Security was also a major emphasis in

October 2000



October 2001



June 2002



June 2003



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the upgrading of the water treatment plant. Security has always been a major component of Norfolk's planning for its reservoirs and treatment plants. Like every other facility upgrade or renovation, 37th Street's project included the modernization of plant security, which includes round-the-clock presence of security guards, a security fence encompassing the facility, admittance passes for all employees, and camera surveillance throughout the plant.

In addition to the renovation of operational facilities, changes were made to benefit the plant's employees. The new chemical feed building included a conference room, lunchroom and locker rooms.

"Upgrading the 37th Street Water Treatment Plant ensures that the City of Norfolk will continue to protect the safety and the high quality of the drinking water it serves to all Norfolk water customers," said Utilities Director Kristen Lentz. "And we are proud that we could complete this first phase of the plant's upgrading so efficiently and cost-effectively."

The next phase of the 37th Street Water Treatment Plant upgrade will include replacement of treatment basins, filters, piping and pumps. Phase II is expected to cost about \$33 million. ♦

**Appearing soon
in your mailbox!**



**The City of Norfolk
2003 Water Quality Report**

- Lists all substances found in Norfolk drinking water from Jan. 2002-Dec. 2002.
- Tells customers how Norfolk's drinking water compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- Arrives via direct mail to all Norfolk homes and businesses.
- In mid-June the report also will be available at all Norfolk Public Library branches, City Hall information desk, Department of Utilities office at 400 Granby Street, and on the Department of Utilities website at

www.norfolk.gov/utilities



The new intermediate pump station (IPS) ensures that partially-treated water flows through the rest of the treatment process. It also gives the plant the capability to continue to treat water in case of a structural failure in the existing clearwell tanks.



The plant's emergency generator system can be operated manually or automatically through SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition).



Security measures, which include 24-hour guards, camera surveillance, and a security fence around the plant, were a major component of the renovation project.



Waterworks Operators Jerry Hollobaugh and Ray Cardett monitor the treatment process and pumpage from the new SCADA control center.